

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A [guard for a] safety razor blade unit, comprising: a frame supporting a plurality of blades with parallel edges; and a guard comprising a lubricating element for delivery of lubricant to the skin during shaving[[;]], and a backstop having an upper edge disposed to contact the skin during shaving [in front of a blade edge] between the blades and [behind] the lubricating [strip] element, wherein the skin contacting edge of the backstop is interrupted by one or more channels running from the lubricating element toward the blades to facilitate the passage of lubricant to the blades during shaving.

2. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of channels separated by lands.

3. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 2, wherein the channels are not more than 3mm wide.

4. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 3, wherein the channels are at least as wide as the lands.

5. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 2 [,3 or 4,], wherein the lands and channels are arranged alternately along the backstop at a uniform pitch.

6. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to [any one of] claim[[s]] 1 [[to 5]], wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.1 to 2mm.

7. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 6, wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.3 to 0.8mm.

8. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 7, wherein the channels have substantially upright side walls and a substantially flat bottom wall.

9. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to [any one of] claim[[s]] 1 [[to 8]], including an elastomeric strip disposed forwardly of the backstop.

10. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 9, wherein the lubricating element is disposed between the elastomeric strip and the backstop.

11. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 9 [[or 10]], wherein the elastomeric strip has upstanding projections thereon.

12. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 11, wherein the upstanding projections are tubular with open ends.

13. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to claim 12, wherein the tubes are D-shaped in cross section and oriented with their flat faces directed away from the backstop.

14. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to [any one of the preceding] claim[[s]] 1, wherein the skin contacting edge surface of the backstop is defined by elastomeric material.

15. (Currently amended) A [guard] blade unit according to [any one of the preceding] claim[[s]] 1, wherein the lubricating element is located immediately in front of the backstop and has an upper surface disposed at a level intermediate the bottoms of the channels and the skin contacting edge surface of the backstop.

Claims 16-20 cancelled.